

MR. BRAND

15-1177

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE~~

April 17, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Hal Saunders
Dick Kennedy *file*

SUBJECT: Contingency Planning for Libyan Flight

The Libyan reconnaissance flight went off without incident. Therefore, there is no need this morning to discuss the contingency papers prepared yesterday. However, it would be useful for you to ask that they be reviewed by an interdepartmental working group for discussion in the WSAG before another flight.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DOS and JCS reviews completed.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETE WITH SECONDARY REFERRAL TO JCS

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LIBYA: Contingency Planning in the Event of a Threat to American Lives and Property in Libya as a result of an Incident Between the United States and Libya

The Security Problem

The Emergency and Evacuation Plan for Libya is current. It is based on the proposition that a general evacuation from the country in the event of a breakdown of security would not be possible without the cooperation of the Libyan Government. The nearest overland safehaven in Tunisia, Gabes, is about 200 miles from Tripoli. The Tripoli International Airport is not served by any American airline, and is located about 21 miles from the center of the city. Access to the airport and evacuation to Tunisia would therefore pose serious physical hazards for those who endeavored to reach either destination unless the Libyan Government cooperated in those efforts.

There are about 2,900 Americans in Libya, approximately 2,150 of whom live in Tripoli and the vicinity. The remainder are concentrated at the EXXON oil port of Marsa Brega (350), around Benghazi (100) and at the other oil ports of Sidir, Ras Lanuf, and Suwaytina - all on the Gulf of Sirte. There are also Americans in the desert, including the Kufra Oasis, at the oil field pumping stations approximately 150 miles from the coast of the Gulf.

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The principal American facilities in Libya are the physical installations in the oil fields and at the oil ports. The Embassy, which is not an American-owned property, is located near the business center of Tripoli and the port. Most of the oil company offices are relatively near the Embassy.

The Embassy has single side band voice circuit communications with Benghazi, Tunis and Valletta. A local warden system exists, and the Embassy has been reminded within the past week to alert its members to the possibility of an emergency situation arising from area or other developments. Under the warden system, the Embassy would notify eight companies of a threat to the security of the population and each company would in turn, notify its employees and the resident zone warden for which the company had accepted responsibility. The Embassy has also been instructed to renew its classified material with a view to its destruction in advance of a major crisis.

The following are the emergency and evacuation phases established under the existing plan:

Warning Phase - Embassy estimates costs and requests fiscal data for evacuation, assesses transportation available, advises total number

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of evacuees listed by men, women, and children under 12.

Phase 1 - Evacuation of official dependents as necessary. Embassy advises non-official Americans to voluntarily evacuate dependents. Embassy reports names of those evacuated, means of travel, destination, and lists all known non-official Americans in district.

Phase 2 - Problem of evacuating third country nationals employed by American companies is examined. Evacuation of non-essential Embassy personnel begins, Embassy advises all except key non-official Americans to evacuate.

Phase 3 - Consultations on choice of protecting power. Embassy advises remaining Americans of possible closure of post and urges they depart immediately. (The Embassy has contingency guidance for a break in diplomatic relations.)

Phase 4 - Close post, relinquish to protecting power. Embassy advises Department of known remaining Americans.

Assumptions

1. In event of a major confrontation between the United States and Libya, particularly one which the

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Libyan Government might regard as a gross affront against
Libyan sovereignty or dignity, the Libyan Government
may be expected to react strongly.

2. Because of its concern with the continued effective operation of the petroleum industry, it is doubtful that the Libyan Government would either encourage or promote an all-out physical assault on the American population in Libya. Isolated acts of violence on individual members of the population cannot be excluded, particularly in the Tripoli suburbs. Consequently, in the event of a threat to the security of the population, the Embassy will almost certainly invoke a "standfast" situation recommending that American citizens remain in their homes until the tension is eased.

3. Mob violence, more or less sanctioned by the government, may, nevertheless, take place. Its targets would be the Embassy, the identifiable residences of American officials, and probably prominent American private installation, such as the Oasis, AMOSEAS and EXXON office buildings.

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4. The Libyan Government does not place a high value on diplomatic relations with the United States. It may, therefore, break diplomatic relations over an incident and demand the more or less immediate withdrawal of all official American personnel from the country. Simultaneously, the Libyan Embassy in Washington would be closed.

Courses of Action

1. Facilitate execution of Emergency and Evacuation Plan through Washington Liaison Group.
2. Establish Task Force responsible for coordination of all activities relating to US relations with Libyan during the crisis period.
3. Request intervention of friendly third country, such as France, Italy, Great Britain, Tunisia and possibly Algeria, in seeking the protection of American lives and property by the Libyan Government.
4. Consider recourse to the United Nations in the event that the security situation deteriorates substantially in order to bring pressure of world opinion to bear on the Libyan government.
5. Consider utilization of Sixth Fleet resources to remove Americans safely, if the situation deteriorates

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into a general assault on the American population and
there is a complete breakdown of order with or without
the encouragement of the local government.

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